(d) Government is conducting regular rounds of nation-wide sentinel surveillance to track geographical spread of the HIV epidemic. The data is also used for estimation of total HIV infected persons in the country. These data reveal that the estimated number of HIV infection was 3.5 million in 1998, 3.71 in 1999, 3.86 million in 2000 and 3.97 million in the year 2001. These data indicate that there has been showing in the growth of the epidemic.

Tenure of CGHS doctors

2683. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any norm that a CGHS doctor will not remain in a single place for more then a specified period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines have been formulated for transfer of doctors working in CGHS dispensaries.

As per these guidelines, transfer of doctors from one dispensary to another is normally made by the concerned Additional/Joint Director of the CGHS organisation in the concerned CGHS covered city after a period of three to four years. The period of stay at a particular place may also extend upto five years also.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Replacing the test of injection syringes by LAL-test

2684. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started replacing the test of injection syringes produced in India, which is done on rabbits for toxicity and pyrogencity, by LAL-test;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any time-frame has been set to do so?